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Updates for January 6th

23 Dec - Paid Informant and Social Media Posts Lead to 'Turtle Island Liberation Front' Arrests

Federal agents made a series of arrests that revealed targeted surveillance of the Turtle Island Liberation Front, a leftist organization based in southern California.

MORE:

by Sean Summers (*Unicorn Riot*)

Through an informant, at least one undercover agent, and online and physical surveillance the FBI tracked the group before intervening in what it calls a conspiracy.

The Department of Justice announced Dec. 15 that it had arrested four people it alleges planned to detonate pipe bombs on New Year's Eve as part of an "anti-American," "anti-capitalist" plot against two unnamed companies, revealing an investigation into the group. On December 17 another arrest was reported, targeting a person in Louisiana federal agents say is associated with the group, but not with the bombing plot.

The sting comes just weeks after the Trump Administration's NSPM-7 memo, which announced plans to increase his administration's targeting of leftists, and falls in line with the FBI's long, fraught history of relying on informants to ensnare people in plots they may have never undertaken if not for the agency's influence.

Five alleged members of the Turtle Island Liberation Front, a small, relatively new leftist organization based in southern California, were arrested December 12 for charges of possession of unregistered destructive devices, conspiracy, and threats in interstate commerce after a paid confidential human source and an undercover FBI employee began monitoring and reporting on the group's activity. The paid confidential human source is said in the indictment to have been providing information to the FBI since August 2021.

The group, which first appeared online in July of this year, has a small internet presence. Videos and images posted to their Instagram center their anti-colonial, anti-capitalist politics and emphasize support for Palestine and Indigenous peoples in North America.

A criminal complaint was filed in the Central District of California on Dec. 13, 2025 by new FBI Special Agent Carolyn Thompson, who finished her training at the FBI Academy last December. The complaint says the alleged plot was uncovered in November when one of the arrestees, Audrey Carroll, gave a hand-written document spelling out a coordinated attack to an unnamed "confidential human source," otherwise known as an informant.

For decades, the FBI has relied on informants to coax, and in some cases, entrap, organizers, activists and others in plots that may never have been conceived without their involvement.

In the years after the 9/11 attacks, the FBI targeted Muslims for undercover investigations and sting operations bordering on entrapment. Around the same time, in the early 2000s, federal law enforcement intensely targeted environmental and animal rights groups for undercover operations, leaning heavily on informants to glean information and land convictions.

Past cases show a pattern of informants targeting politically active, but often young and unwitting, people who might have been involved in protest movements before but are often on the fringes of established organizing efforts.

Once someone has been established as a confidential human source, often out of coercion or motivated by money, the FBI works closely with them to gather information they are interested in.

The plan Carroll shared with the informant, according to the complaint, was for several people to plant improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, at five locations and detonate them at the same time on New Year's Eve, damaging unnamed U.S. companies' property in southern California.

The investigation draws on content from the group's Instagram page and Signal group chats, though much of the evidence cited to establish probable cause for the arrests comes from the informant, the undercover FBI employee, and additional FBI surveillance.

Beginning in late November, the confidential source fed information to the FBI including names of participants, Signal messages, reports on meetings, audio recordings, photographs and copies of documents. In December, an undercover FBI employee joined the investigation and began attending meetings and surveilling the group.

As the complaint tells it, on November 26 the informant was given a handwritten plan by Carroll dubbed "Operation Midnight Sun," apparently detailing a plot to bomb five locations of two U.S. businesses on December 31. No mention is made of how the informant was connected to the group up to that point or how the source began feeding information to the FBI.

On December 2, Carroll, Page and others met with the informant again in Los Angeles. There, according to the informant who audio-recorded the meeting, Carroll shared the same handwritten plan with two unnamed "co-conspirators."

Five days later on December 7, the informant was joined by an undercover FBI employee, and the two met with Carroll again. This time alleged TILF members Zachary Page and Dante Gaffield were there too. The informant told agents that Carroll recruited Gaffield into the plan at that meeting, sharing the details of the plot with him.

While the informant and undercover employee met with members face-to-face, FBI agents surveilled and tracked participants, following them to and from meetings, watching as they picked up packages and materials supposedly meant for bomb-making, and prepared for a camping trip where they planned to test explosives, the complaint says.

On December 12, the group traveled to the Mojave Desert in the Lucerne Valley of California to camp and, according to the FBI, assemble pipe bombs to test before the New Year's Eve attack.

The group traveled to the campsite in two separate cars – the informant rode in one, while the undercover fed rode in the other. There, the complaint says that Carroll, Page and another alleged member Tina Lai laid out bomb-making components on folding tables. Among the parts the FBI says the group brought were lengths of PVC pipe, potassium nitrate fertilizer, and material for fuses. A surveillance plane flew overhead, capturing video of the event.

When an alleged unnamed co-conspirator supposedly began grinding charcoal as a precursor for black powder, the undercover FBI employee alerted law enforcement. A SWAT team took Lai, Page, Carroll and Gaffield into custody. Each are being federally charged with conspiracy and possession of unregistered destructive device — they face upwards of 15 years in prison.

That day, FBI agents searched the arrestees' homes and found posters and pamphlets in support of Palestine, "hand-written notes reflecting ideologies aligned with TILF," and what the FBI says were more bomb-making supplies, according to the complaint.

The same day, across the country, the FBI arrested another person they say was tied to the group after surveilling their home and social media presence.

Micah Legnon, a former Marine, was allegedly traveling to New Orleans when they were intercepted by federal agents. A separate criminal complaint filed in the Western District of Louisiana claims they were traveling to the city to attack federal agents after ICE began its targeted operations there.

Legnon is named as a member of the Signal group chat that the FBI says TILF members used to plan the New Year's Eve attack, which the complaint uses as probable cause to surveil and ultimately charge Legnon.

The complaint cites a Facebook post allegedly made by Legnon invoking the infamous standoff in Waco, TX, which saw 70 members of a fundamentalist Christian sect and four ATF agents killed, in reference to ICE raids happening in New Orleans. The post was interpreted by FBI Special Agent Paul Seller, who drafted the probable cause affidavit, as a threat to federal agents using interstate communications, Title 18 U.S. Code Section 875(C).

The complaint includes images of a Signal user, allegedly Legnon, announcing that they were on their way to New Orleans. Attached to the message was a video apparently showing body armor and a weapon the FBI says Legnon planned to use in an unspecified attack.

Beyond the information shared by human sources, the complaint relies on social media, handwritten notes found in a defendant's home, and Signal messages to justify the targeting and arrests of the five people caught in last week's arrests. The complaint says the group took measures to obscure their identities and cover their tracks, digitally and in person, adding to the state's probable cause to arrest them.

The use of FBI informants to land arrests has long been criticized and scrutinized. And as the Department of Justice falls in line with Trump's directives, more cases targeting his political enemies may arise.

25 Dec - Incarcerated Californians Express Optimism About New Clemency Proposal

Tien Mo is still awaiting a response to her 2017 clemency application. As previously reported in Truthout, at age 20, she was sentenced to life without parole in her classmate's death. As the years pass, the 44-year-old's hopes dwindle. Now, a proposed statute gives her renewed optimism.

MORE:

by Victoria Law (*The Appeal*)

Clemency typically takes two forms — a pardon, which removes the consequences of a criminal conviction such as possible deportation; or a commutation, which reduces a prison sentence.

In March, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced an additional avenue to commutation. The proposed rules task the parole board with reviewing people six years before their first parole date, conducting a Commutation and Resentencing (C&R) hearing that may include victims' families and the district attorney, and then issuing recommendations to both the governor regarding clemency and to the courts regarding resentencing. Currently, the board holds the power to recommend incarcerated individuals for clemency and, upon the governor's request, investigate applicants. But, said Kelly Savage, the Drop LWOP (Life without Parole) coordinator and a clemency recipient, the board had stopped doing these reviews in 1994.

"The proposed regulations provide the framework that will allow the Board to exercise its authority under section 4812, as well as section 1172.1," Diana Crofts-Pelayo, the governor's deputy director of

communications, wrote in an email to *Truthout*. The governor will retain the discretion to grant executive clemency outside this process. During his nearly seven years in office, Newsom has granted 160 commutations.

Crofts-Pelayo did not respond about the number of applications still awaiting decision. The regulations need to be approved by the state's Office of Administrative Law, a process that can take months.

While the rules exclude those sentenced to death and those who have already had parole hearings, it does not exclude those sentenced to life without parole. "This change gives a lot of hope to ones who have been hopeless such as myself," Mo wrote in a prison e-message to *Truthout*. "I am no longer that 18-year-old and I've worked hard to not be that person any longer." Mo has never had a disciplinary infraction during her 24 years in state prison, no small feat given the many petty acts that often lead to sanctions.

Her sentence bars her from a parole hearing, but a C&R hearing would allow her to show those changes.

She's not the only one hopeful about this new avenue.

Joseph Bell is the coordinating associate with Drop LWOP and a member of the California Clemency Council. He knows the importance of clemency. In 1995, Bell, then 26, was convicted of murder and sentenced to life without parole. Behind bars, he co-founded programs to help others, particularly 19- to 25-year-olds, but thought he would never leave prison. Nearly 20 years into his sentence, a high school friend told him about commutation. What Bell learned was discouraging. "No LWOPS were getting commuted," he told *Truthout*. At first, he thought filing would be a waste of time. But in 2015, he changed his mind and, in 2018, then-Governor Brown commuted his sentence to 25 years to life, allowing him to apply for parole. Bell was released in May 2020.

Bell is cautiously optimistic about the additional avenue, wondering if the board will have the staffing to adequately identify prospective applicants. In addition, the board has a low release rate: In October 2025, the board granted parole in only 23 percent of its 281 hearings, down from the 35 percent granted in 2023. Still, Bell said, the change brings hope to those who fear dying in prison.

"We Have Been Burned So Many Times"

Inside prisons, feelings about the proposal are mixed. "We have been burned so many times with these so-called additional avenues," AnnaMaria Gana, imprisoned at the California Institution for Women (CIW), told *Truthout*.

"There are certain things in my life that contributed to the way I thought during my crime," she explained. Gana grew up in the Philippines steeped in a culture where family is paramount. But childhood taught her differently. Three days before her seventh birthday, her father died by suicide. No one told the young girl how he died. Years later, she assumed that the silence meant that suicide was shameful. Her mother, struggling with solo parenting, repeatedly told Gana and her siblings about the sacrifices she made for them. Her words made Gana feel like a burden.

Still, Gana married and had two sons. In 2007, the family emigrated to the United States on an investor visa, buying a UPS store and a small house to rent for income. Three years later, Gana was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a double mastectomy, began chemotherapy, and took steroids to counter the drugs' effects. She lost her appetite and, despite taking Ambien, her ability to sleep.

Gana had been the head of their business and, without her, the store floundered. Their tenant stopped paying rent and the family needed to hire a lawyer to evict him. The chemotherapy and steroids, coupled with their financial woes, caused depression and suicidal ideation. She feared that she might not survive and worried about her husband, nearly 31 years her senior, and their sons.

“If I die, then everybody else should die with me,” she recalled thinking.

On Mother’s Day 2011, she shot and killed her husband and wounded their 16-year-old son. (Their nine-year-old was unharmed.) She tried to shoot herself but survived. She was sentenced to 40 years to life.

When Gana entered CIW in 2015, the prison had the nation’s highest suicide rate among women’s prisons. Gana joined the Suicide Prevention Outreach Committee, whose members met weekly to come up with plans for awareness, prevention and spotting red flags. The next year, as part of the committee’s outreach, she shared her story before hundreds of her peers and visiting state senators. She now shares her story regularly in support groups.

In 2018, friends and prison staff encouraged her to apply for clemency. She did and, months later, was interviewed by then-Governor Brown’s staff. “I ended up crying the whole time,” she recalled. “I was not able to articulate what happened.” Brown did not grant her clemency before he left office; her application is still pending.

Since that disastrous interview, she has participated in numerous self-help groups to understand her motivations. She also volunteers at support groups and, like Mo, has not incurred a single disciplinary ticket during her 12 years in prison. Now, she’s asking for the chance to be reviewed, to talk about what happened and the person she’s become.

The 56-year-old understands that her actions seem inexcusable. “A mom is supposed to be a protector,” she reflected. “A mom is supposed to be not causing harm to her children.”

Throughout her incarceration, she worked tirelessly to repair her relationship with her sons. As children, they visited twice a month. Now in their twenties, they visit several times a year. Both have firmly supported her clemency efforts, even attempting to see the governor on her behalf. (They were unsuccessful.)

“Then Christmas Comes and Nobody Gets Called”

Kinzie Noordman knows firsthand how an additional avenue can simply be a repeat vilification.

In 2003, Noordman, then 20, and her high school friend Damien Guerrero brought their friend, 18-year-old Kelly Bullwinkle, to the woods where Guerrero had dug a shallow grave the day before. Guerrero shot Bullwinkle, injuring her. Noordman then fired the fatal shot. They attempted to hide her body in the shallow grave.

“What I did was horrible,” Noordman told *Truthout* by phone. “There were no mitigating factors.”

She confirmed that she and Bullwinkle had both been romantically involved with Guerrero. But jealousy wasn’t her motivation, she explained. Shortly before that night, she and Bullwinkle had argued about Guerrero — not about their love triangle, but about their peers’ perceptions of Noordman. “She told me that everyone was laughing at me because they knew I was in love with Damian. I wanted to prove her wrong,” Noordman said.

“We were Goths,” she continued. “We always talked about death and dying. It was totally normal for us to discuss murder or violence.” It didn’t help that Noordman was deep into methamphetamine and cocaine use, further clouding her judgment as a teenager. When Guerrero once again brought up wanting to kill someone, Noordman suggested Bullwinkle. “He didn’t say no,” she recalled.

Guerrero was sentenced to 15 years to life. Noordman was sentenced to 25 years to life with a 20-year firearm enhancement, bringing her sentence to 45-to-life.

When she first entered prison, Noordman still blamed her co-defendant. Then, she participated in the prison's first Victim Offender Education Group, an 18-to-24-month program based on restorative justice principles. Incarcerated participants met with outside survivors of violence, sharing their experiences and eating lunch together. Hearing about the ripple effects of similar harms profoundly changed her view. "I didn't want to keep messing up and hurting other people," she said. She enrolled in other programs, including Bridges to Life, another restorative justice program. When she was transferred to CIW, she started the program there and now facilitates it every Sunday.

She also had a chance to practice restorative justice in her own case. A friend of Bullwinkle's learned that Noordman had participated in a victim awareness walk-a-thon in Bullwinkle's honor. The woman reached out, leading to a mediated conversation about how Noordman's actions had affected both of their lives. "She was getting ready to go to college. She couldn't really move forward. That [murder] derailed her plans," Noordman recalled. "She really needed to tell me that."

Shortly after entering prison in 2005, Noordman received a write-up for having hooch (homemade alcohol) in a common area. Since then, she has remained disciplinary-free. In 2023, her near-spotless prison record caused officials to recommend a resentencing hearing to remove the 20-year gun enhancement. The judge acknowledged her positive contributions, but decided that her original crime outweighed those improvements and denied resentencing.

Noordman applied for clemency in 2018 and, like Gana, was interviewed months later by the governor's staff. Since then, she has heard nothing.

"Every time there's a holiday, we're like, 'Is he gonna do it?'" she said. "Then Christmas comes and nobody gets called."

The governor's office did not say whether he plans to grant commutations before the year ends.

25 Dec - In Prison, Holding Handwritten Cards Is Rare. Illinois Is Taking It Away.

When mail is digitized, it becomes sterile – no longer a precious handwritten card that smells like my grandma's perfume.

MORE:

by Michael Bell (*Truthout*)

It came in a red envelope, postmarked December 27, 2010. It was addressed to me at Menard Correctional Center, cell 546 in the south uppers. The return address stunned me when I read it. It came from Sacramento Street in Vallejo, California, 94590. The sender's name was Gramma, Aimee Bell. I examined the handwriting for a long while, trying to remember if I'd ever seen it before. It did not spark a memory. I noticed she'd made a mistake on the last "a" in gramma and the "6" in her apartment number. They were both thicker and darker, where she'd retraced them to connect her misprints. Her lettering was a bit shaky, but almost perfect for a woman of 77 years of age.

I carefully removed the staple put in by mailroom staff after they sliced it open to inspect its contents for dangerous contraband. I pulled the envelope open, then quickly put my nose to it and inhaled deeply. I was hoping there would be remnants of a scent that would transport me back to my preteen years and the time I spent watching her expertly weave her long black locks into this strange donut she told me was called a bun.

I smiled when I caught the slightest scent of perfume. I took another long, deep inhale, this time hoping to commit it to my olfactory memory. I'd been incarcerated for the past 20 years of her life and hadn't seen her for 23 years — the last time being at the burial of my father.

I removed the card from its envelope, and on the front was a colorful cartoon of the three wise men. Two of them had their gifts for baby Jesus, and the third had an oversized, green Frankenstein monster. The other two looked at the third, and one of them said, “You idiot!... I said go and get Frankincense!” I laughed and opened the card to find the words, “Happy Holidays.”

I was happily surprised to find a handwritten message that read:

*Hi Mike
Be blessed
Be strong
And know that you are loved.
I thought you would find
This card funny.*

I re-read the message several times, not wanting it to be over. Focusing that day, as I’ve done hundreds of times since, on one line: “And know that you are loved.”

There was one more thing in that card that would become one of my most prized possessions — a picture. In that picture my grandmother was sitting in a chair, with her head slightly tilted to the right. She had a small grin on her lips, and she peeked directly at me from behind her round, gold, thin, wire-rimmed glasses. Her right hand was raised, as if she was using her thumb to gesture to my Aunt Steph. She was leaning in close, making sure she fit into the frame.

Tears began to well up as I studied every inch of her face. I recognized the features of my father, my aunts, brother, nieces, and nephews. I saw myself. There wasn’t a wrinkle to be found anywhere on her face of almost 80 years. She was beautiful. Our skin tones matched, our eyes matched, and so did our lips. The ones my mother refers to as “them Aimee Bell lips.” On both of their heads was that famous Bell mane. Thick, wavy and past their shoulders. My aunt had her arm around my grandma’s shoulders, and she smiled at me through the camera also. I missed them both.

I smelled the envelope one last time, then hurriedly returned the card and picture and wrapped it in plastic. I hoped this would preserve whatever parts of her there were, for as long as I could. That was 15 years ago, and to this day I still find comfort and motivation inside that red envelope. It still means the world to me. There was one last handwritten line before she signed it “Love Gramma Bell.”

It read:

I look forward to seeing you soon.

I’ll never forget that moment, the feeling I had when I received this letter. But, sadly, scenes like this will never happen again.

According to a memorandum from the Illinois Department of Corrections, which was sent to all individuals in custody in September 2025, the department will be making changes to incoming mail processes. The memorandum informed us that, “Beginning immediately, the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) will start to implement changes to incoming mail processed in response to the increasing threat of drugs and/or chemical-laced paper entering facilities through the mail, which have resulted in a rise of suspected overdoses among individuals in custody and staff exposures.” It goes on to state that, “Mailroom staff will scan in color ... letters, greeting cards, and photographs.”

This means the death of all personal mail in IDOC. Once mail is scanned by a machine and given a serial number, it is now a document. It is a file that no longer has my grandma’s scent. It is no longer the paper from her personal notebook or the card she took her time to search for, purchase, and send to me because she “thought I’d find it funny.” It’s no longer the picture of her and my Aunt Steph. It is now two epithets of my loved ones who’ve had their identities stolen by anonymous mailroom staff, who will unceremoniously dispose of their original images in six months.

One of the bullet points in IDOC's memo reads:

Scanned documents will be available on your tablets for six months from the date they were scanned. Original mail documents will be retained for at least six months.

These ineffective attempts to prevent drugs or chemical-laced paper from entering facilities via mail are not new. There's a decades-long history. This will only be the latest failed attempt I've seen in my 35 years of incarceration, all over this state. The outcomes have only managed to criminalize a different segment of our support systems.

First, they banned all mail that had lipstick on it. This criminalized our girlfriends and wives. Next, it was any mail that had crayon, marker, glitter, ribbons, or stickers. This move basically outlawed every item children use to create drawings and cards for their incarcerated parents. I wonder how this affected our sisters and mothers in Logan Correctional Center. Then, any mail that had stickers or decals on it was returned, with staff even going as far as to remove stamps from each piece of incoming mail.

When all of these "new incoming processes" failed to prevent the introduction of drugs or laced paper into facilities, they targeted our visitors. We were no longer allowed to share food with our families, and we were no longer allowed to hold their hands. Even more and worse for those of us who were parents, we weren't allowed to hold our own infants.

I don't have the statistics regarding just exactly how many individuals in custody have overdosed, or how many staff have been exposed. To be sure, even one overdose or exposure is too many; but they do not claim that there have been actual overdoses and/or exposures. They are instituting devastating policies based on "suspected" happenings. They are chasing ghosts they have yet to catch during my entire 35 years. They have only resulted in the demonization of our friends and loved ones. Letters help to deepen our familial and societal connections.

When I and many of the men around me were at our hope's end, letters and pictures were the knots at the end of the rope that we clung to. When we were put in the hole and supermax prison for years on end, it was the pictures and letters from our loved ones that bolstered our mental strength and wellbeing. For me personally, when I wasn't sure I'd be able to exist another hour, it was my pictures and a birthday card my mother sent me for my 20th birthday that gave me the reasons to keep going.

This is bigger than just pictures and mail. This is bigger than the miniscule minority of individuals who have abused our privileges for nefarious reasons. This is bigger than the unproven and suspected allegations leveled at an entire population of individuals. This is about being human and feeling the intimate connection that comes with the texture, color, and scent of an envelope, containing a card and the words of a grandma to her firstborn grandchild. It's about the umpteenth time I put my nose to that envelope, then read the words "you are loved."

I called one of my best friends, Nelson Morris, to tell him about our loss of physical mail. Before I could finish, he launched into his own story on the importance of mail.

Nelson Morris has given his permission for me to share our conversation here. He reminded me of the time his mother died suddenly from a heart attack. He went on to tell me something he said he's never shared with anyone. He told me that a week after she passed, he received a letter from his mother in the mail. She was telling him she was okay and how much she loved him. He kept that letter for the last 10 years of his incarceration.

He said, "Bro, I didn't even leave it in the cell. I kept it on me in my phone book for 10 years. When I brought it home with me, it hardly had any ink on it."

That's the importance of our pictures and mail. Now they're being reduced to PDF images and documents we can request by filling out an "Individual In Custody Request Form (DOC 028) Individual in Custody Staff Request Form." In a final parting shot, we are slapped in the face with the following statement: "IDOC understands the importance of mail as a means of connection with loved ones..."

I respectfully and unequivocally say, No, you do not!

Nelson had a life sentence plus 35 years, and that letter from an angel changed his life and gave him purpose; after nearly 30 years of incarceration he was released, never to recidivate. Like Nelson, I have my own angel letter. In fact, I have many from loved ones who are no longer with us. So do the many men and women incarcerated in IDOC. In these pictures and letters, we find purpose, we find peace, and we find the power to persevere.

I hope IDOC will reconsider this change. I fear the effects on those in custody and our families will outweigh the effectiveness of this policy change. I also fear that if and when this policy fails, they will target our contact visits. When will this end?

My grandma's aspiration and dream of seeing me soon never came to fruition. Only five years later, due to the horrible mind-stealing disease of dementia, she would no longer remember me. Fourteen years later, on April 24, 2024, at the age of 92, she became an ancestor, and will never have the opportunity to see me again.

Now I'm going to smell my red envelope from Gramma Bell.

26 Dec - Message/greetings from Nikos Maziotis

Greece: Nikos sent the following to the International Conference on Political Prisoners.

MORE:

via Act for Freedom Now!

Comrades, thank you for your invitation to the International Congress of Political Prisoners that you are organizing. I send you my warmest greetings from Domokos Prison, Greece.

If the history of humanity is the struggle of those who aspire to freedom, equality, and solidarity against those who seek to impose slavery, inequality, exploitation, and oppression; if the history of humanity is the struggle of women against patriarchal and sexist power, the struggle of the poor, the people, and the working class against the ruling elites, the rich, the slave owners, the feudal lords, the bureaucrats, or, in today's terms, against the State and Capital, then this struggle has been paid for with blood. Countless comrades, all over the world, have given their lives in this fight.

They fell in confrontations with the enemy, during clashes with repressive forces, died in prison or during hunger strikes, and were murdered during demonstrations and strikes. Over time, this struggle has cost millions of lives, genocides of entire populations, thousands of years of accumulated imprisonment, as well as torture and isolation. In this social war and class struggle, the current international system of domination, the State and Capital, is not content with simply eliminating us physically or imprisoning us. It demands that we renounce our political identity, our struggle, our organization, the choices of confrontation we have made, revolution, and armed struggle.

It demands that we acknowledge being criminals, terrorists, and social detractors, when these are precisely the defining characteristics of the system it embodies. Our duty, as political prisoners, is therefore to remain faithful and consistent with the choices we have made in our struggle. This is our moral and political victory against the state and capitalist criminals and their apparatus. No revision, then. No repentance for our choices.

We live in an era where the international state-capitalist system of domination is moving towards ever-greater totalitarianism, aiming for the total subjugation of human beings to power and their transformation into docile and depoliticized instruments. The undermining of all the workers' and popular gains won through past struggles, within the framework of the neoliberal hegemony of recent decades, the anti-terrorism legislation, the hardening of repression and the penal framework, the creation of prisons and special isolation facilities, the criminalization of strikes, and the restriction of the right to demonstrate, all converge towards this objective.

At the same time, imperialist competition between the major industrial powers within the international system of domination, as illustrated, for example, The war in Ukraine and the genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza expose the hypocrisy of states and their leaders who invoke "democracy," "human rights," or "international law," etc. T

he so-called bourgeois "democracy" has now lost all meaning. Elections are devoid of purpose, since the governments of nation-states, regardless of their ideological leanings and without any popular will, implement policies dictated by the bureaucracies and power centers of the international capitalist-state system (G7, European Union, IMF, NATO, etc.). Their bourgeois "democracy" is increasingly taking on the characteristics of a dictatorship and an authoritarian regime with totalitarian aspirations.

In Greece, following the social defeat of the 2010–2012 uprising against the loan programs imposed by the European Union, the ECB, and the IMF, we are already experiencing the concrete effects of this authoritarianism: the lasting impoverishment of the working classes, permanent austerity, and the continuous hardening of state repression.

But beyond the intensification of exploitation and totalitarianism, the international state-capitalist system, with its logic of infinite growth, its limitless accumulation, and the ecological destruction it engenders, confronts us with a fundamentally existential question: that of our survival as a human species, and indeed the very survival of the Earth and its ecosystems. This ecological catastrophe, with its already irreversible consequences, undoubtedly constitutes one of the most powerful forces driving the people to overthrow the global system of state-capitalist domination. This places us before a fundamentally existential question: that of our survival as a human species, and indeed the very survival of the Earth and its ecosystems. This ecological catastrophe, with its already irreversible consequences, undoubtedly constitutes one of the most powerful driving forces for people to overthrow the global system of state-capitalist domination.

If Rosa Luxemburg formulated the dilemma "Socialism or Barbarism" in her time, today the dilemma is posed in these terms: "Social Revolution or Annihilation." Despite the difficult conditions in which we live and the bleak future that the State and Capital have in store for us, our struggle to overthrow them must continue at all costs.

Comrades, I wish you strength and courage in the struggle. I wish all political prisoners to hold firm, wherever they are, in prison or in solitary confinement, in Europe, Turkey, Israel, America, everywhere.

27 Dec - Who Are Putting Our Lives at Risk?

Greece: Please read the latest from Marianna Manoura.

MORE:

via *Abolition Media*

As an inmate, you come face-to-face with the judicial apparatus and its bureaucracy at regular intervals, whether you like it or not. Documents that are either late or never come, documents that you don't expect and turn up or look forward to and don't come. Folders are closed, opened, plugs added, categories removed. There prevails, especially in the sub-judicial regime, a continuous waiting which sometimes gives motivation and sometimes causes tension. As far as our own case is concerned, the judicial system remains silent. After 13 months, the file was just closed after negative release decisions with ridiculous and non-

existent justifications preceding it. The judicial mechanism, as it usually does in such cases, unfolds its vindictiveness in our case while it turns its gaze to the simultaneous systemic crimes.

This condition is now so obvious that it has begun to mobilize a large part of society. One of the most shocking examples of collective frustration and disobedience is last year's 28/2 when almost a million people flooded the streets of Athens (and the whole country) targeting the incompetence and partiality of the civil justice as well as the ruthless side of its political system. Maybe not with the same participation, but with increased political reflexes and with 2 years of stubbornness, the pro-Palestinian movement raised an international struggle with continuous marches, interventions and actions, tirelessly and persistently in winter and summer. Dynamic cinematic moments were also the massive demonstration to preserve the revolutionary memory of comrade Kyriakos Xymitiris – where, despite all the unprecedented repressive methods, solidarity, camaraderie and optimism overshadowed the police brutality – as well as the response to the call for October: a month of action and memory for the anarchist revolutionary Kyriakos Xymitiris during which multifaceted actions took place, from interventions, and gatherings to a multitude of direct actions with the aim of preserving the revolutionary memory of the fallen comrade and connecting it with today's dispute. The recapture of the evacuated Evangelismos proved once again that the territorialization of the struggle is a realistic option, project and tool. In the event that it is accompanied by a decisive, solidarity and fighting movement, the attempt of any evacuation can be answered immediately, dynamically and massively. The same impression was left by the suffocatingly full hall of Evelpidon for the trial of the reoccupation of Matrozou where 300 people stood by the persecuted comrades proving in practice that we do not leave anyone alone in the hands of the state and that we clearly support the militant defense of our occupations. Even on this year's 6th December, despite the unprecedented decision of the repressive apparatus not to allow the demonstration to approach Exarchia en masse and the place of the murder of the anarchist student Alexandros Grigoropoulos for the first time, it showed that our political space will always be there, the tip of the spear at every police barrier.

We thus see that despite all the frontal attack that the social base and movements receive through continued impoverishment, precariousness and repression, the resistances always find a way to express themselves. It is this expression that the repressive mechanism tries to limit and prevent its aggravation and diffusion. That is why it is shielded with legal supertools such as the anti-terrorist legislation (187A), so that it can define what is acceptable and what is not, what it considers a crime and what a risk. The system has the power to define – arbitrarily – just and unjust, right and wrong. It also has control over meanings and definitions, the power to impose its reality and narrative.

Through justice, laws and especially 187A, the war of concepts crystallizes. Thus, fighters who mortgage their lives for a better world are called “terrorists”. Actions against predatory organizations (banks) that profit off our backs are called “disasters of public benefit institutions”. Attacks on military agencies that sow death, hunger, fear, are described as “endangering international organizations”. Actions against companies that prioritize profit over human life are characterized as a “serious danger to the country”. And all this is called “terrorism”. But are these movements really endangering the population? Are these choices affecting families, students, sick workers, unemployed, immigrants? Another meaning belongs to danger and another definition to terrorism.

It is the “saving of the economy” through the memoranda and the austerity measures that I would describe as robbery and the indirect murder of thousands of people. They are the “individual incidents” of police violence that I would call state murders of people who are surplus to the state. It is the “accidents” with the 57 murdered in Tempi and the 104 in Mati that I would describe as state capitalist murders on the altar of privatization and profit. It is the “wreck” of Pylos with the 500 dead immigrants that I would call a state racist murder in the name of Europe – fortress and white supremacy. It is the “modernization” of public hospitals that I would describe as the destruction of public health and the forcing of thousands of people into inadequate medical care. It is the “accidents” in workplaces that I would call labor murders and the bosses’ indifference to the lives of their workers. It is the “extreme weather” that I would describe as the inadequacy of state infrastructures and direct assignments to companies-scumbags of acquaintances and relatives of the political elite. It is the “household baskets” that I would describe as the further degradation

of a life lived in deprivation, restriction, stress. It is the “3 lotteries” that I would call the entanglement of the political system and the filthy lucre of a few on the backs of the farmers. All of these are just the latest examples of real and substantial population endangerment.

So on the flip side of the world, where solidarity and equality would be a priority, perhaps the word terrorism and risk would have the meaning it deserves. That is, the condition that causes terror, insecurity, poverty in the masses. The description of dilapidated schools, failing hospitals, damaged dams, obsolete railway networks, thirteen-hour work, murdered inside and – precisely – outside the police stations. In other words, the description of a life – survival, a life not worth living, a life of Greece in 2025.

And while they use violence every day, intimidate, exclude, endanger our lives, and while they have laws to cover them up and repressive forces to protect them, why should we accept such a system that calls militants terrorists and criminals? Why should we limit ourselves to the definitions and finally to their prefectures? It is moreover impossible to peacefully address the claim to equality to the state since it is the principal responsible for this inequality. It is meaningless to ask the state for justice since it is the same that institutes injustice. It is pointless to rely on the state to protect and defend us since it is what arms those who are constantly attacking us.

So in a system that gives the content that suits it to the definitions and prefectures, that calls the indignant farmers a “criminal organization”, the struggling Palestinian women “dangerous” and the union doctors of public hospitals “miserable”, that characterizes as a “population risk” any attempt to respond to the daily violence experienced by thousands and not its death policies that spread death, insecurity and wars, the question is one: who really is the terrorist?

28 Dec - Activist's Arrest Underscores Search/Surveillance Powers of Border Agencies

On December 2, DHS and FBI agents arrested activist Samuel Tunick after being pulled over while driving in Atlanta.

MORE:

by Aja Arnold & jen byers (*Unicorn Riot*)

An officer asked him to step out of the vehicle, under the pretext of inspecting a tail light. He was then surrounded and taken to jail on a warrant for “destroying evidence.” Sam had been indicted in November 2025, for a charge stemming from a January detainment by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, while returning from traveling abroad. Tunick was released on a standard appearance bond less than 24 hours after he was arrested.

According to the grand jury indictment, Tunick “did knowingly destroy, damage, waste, dispose of, and otherwise take any action to delete the digital contents of a Google Pixel cellular phone.” The indictment alleged that this was done specifically with the purpose of “preventing and impairing the Government’s authority” to take Tunick’s phone into its custody. The state claims Tunick violated Title 18 of the U.S. Code, a section of federal law concerning crimes and criminal procedures.

It has not yet been reported what type of evidence the government was searching for on Tunick’s phone, or why Tunick was detained at the airport at all. However, Atlanta locals and members of Tunick’s support team say that Tunick’s detainment at the border in January 2025, and subsequent arrest this month, is part of an ongoing, broader repression against political dissidents and activists of the Stop Cop City movement.

In February 2024, Georgia police and the FBI conducted multiple raids on three homes in South Atlanta, including the Lakewood Heights area, which is near Cop City. Since those raids, wherein only one person was arrested for first degree arson, Lakewood residents say they’ve been experiencing increased police harassment and surveillance.

Tunick’s case comes in the national context of President Trump declaring broad swaths of people who hold leftist views to be “domestic terrorists.” The arrest, which involved multiple government agencies, took

place the same week as Attorney General Pam Bondi issued a memo ordering law enforcement and the FBI to “root out” alleged “domestic terrorism” groups. The memo, which references White House directive NSPM-7, explicitly instructs local and federal agents to look through their past files of “Antifa and antifa-related intelligence” and set up a paid tip line for civilians to report alleged activity.

Tunick’s arrest is a recent example of the broader use of border crossings and airports as venues to facilitate greater targeting of activists. As the state increases its use of “counter-terrorism” practices on U.S. soil, this brings about complex legal questions for all citizens.

Sophia Cope, a senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), provided some context to UR regarding searching at the border. She explained that, in general, the government does not need a warrant to search “persons, their property, or vehicles that cross ports of entry because there are non-criminal enforcement interests that the government has.” Historically, “in the context of the border, those non-criminal interests have been to prevent contraband from coming into the U.S. – e.g. drugs, agricultural items with pests, wildlife, illegal products like ivory.”

Cope noted that, with the rise of laptops and smart phones, there’s been an uptick of officers taking digital devices, demanding passcodes and searching them at will. In 2018, restrictions were passed for CBP, designating rules for how they could search devices.

These protocols – and the tension between civilian privacy and government power – have been repeatedly challenged in court. The twelve regional U.S. Courts of Appeal haven’t been unified in their rulings. In Tunick’s district, the 11th Circuit, the court’s decision ruled heavily in favor of government search power. In the 1st and 11th Circuits, which include Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, government agents don’t need a warrant or probable cause to do a deep search on devices.

Though regions like the 9th and 4th Circuits have ruled towards citizen privacy, requiring that the only legal device searches are ones that look for explicit digital contraband (e.g. evidence of child sex abuse material, aka ‘CSAM,’ or bootleg media), there’s not significant data to determine whether a civilian’s digital privacy is truly honored at border crossings anywhere.

In an interview with UR, a spokesperson from Tunick’s support team expanded on this. They say that the suspension of the Fourth Amendment is “one reason the airports and the border are a zone in which CBP officers, FBI, and [the Department of Homeland Security] take as much liberty as they can to seize electronics and generally harass and make the lives of activists, everyday people, immigrants, and undocumented people very, very difficult.”

Previously, UR has documented that as border protection agencies’ budgets increase, so do their reach. So, with that in mind... What can you do to travel more safely?

The EFF offers a Travel Checklist and a series of guides on how to respond to a potential search. They recommend practices like using long, complicated, unique passwords on everything; backing up all of your devices; encrypting your data; printing out travel documents; logging off of all social media accounts; and going through the check points with your devices off.

Freddy Martinez, Executive Director of Lucy Parsons Labs, cautions travelers against looking for answers in new technologies, or generally in “techno-solutionism.” Martinez explains that there can be a tendency to think, “If I install the right app or have GrapheneOS, I will be secure from searches by the police. That’s not really true. The things that are going to keep us safe are making sure we don’t have anything incriminating on our phones, regardless if we get searched at the border.”

Martinez advocates for device preparation (such as cleaning your devices, leaving chats or even acquiring fresh devices for travel), offline solutions (like going “no tech” or not bringing your devices at all), keeping quiet (not talking to cops) and being aware of your risk profile – as well as your friends’. He acknowledges

that, right now, there is a lot of repression, and “it seems that the FBI is looking at anyone/everyone they can justify. It’s a scary situation out there.”

In this context, Martinez advises travelers to be on “high alert, whether or not you think that you yourself are at risk,” as it’s protocol for “counter-terrorism” initiatives to target entire networks, communities, crews and/or contact lists. “Knowing the risk profile of what I’m doing with my friends,” Martinez says, “That’s more important than trying to outsmart the police.”

Since its formation in 2021, the Stop Cop City movement has been defined by intense and escalating state repression, including the police killing of 26-year-old activist Tortuguita. In August 2023, 61 activists from the Stop Cop City movement were indicted on state racketeering and conspiracy charges – and 42 activists from the movement were charged with domestic terrorism. As these charges are still pending, this legal backdrop sets a relevant precedent for Sam’s case and the modern era of activist repression.

“Despite the persistent harassment of local activists, the state remains unsuccessful in procuring convictions of Stop Cop City protesters,” says an official statement from Tunick’s support team and mutual aid fundraiser. “Samuel’s case exposes the desperation, incompetence, and lack of technical expertise of an FBI reduced-to-a-puppet agency for the Trump administration’s far right agenda.”

31 Dec - Cop City RICO Cases Dismissed

Racketeering charges against 61 people indicted as co-conspirators in the Stop Cop City movement were dismissed yesterday, marking a significant victory for those facing prosecution in the years after the movement’s peak.

MORE:

by Sean Summers (*Unicorn Riot*)

The dismissal comes after more than two years of attempted prosecution that sought to convict protesters who opposed Atlanta’s sprawling police training facility, known as Cop City, as an organized criminal enterprise. In September, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kevin Farmer said from the bench that he planned to dismiss the charges, but the decision was only made official yesterday.

The original indictment was brought in 2023 and targeted dozens of people that the state described a vast and coordinated criminal group that opposed not only Cop City but police and the government as a whole.

In the years since, activists and organizers have faced uncertainty as the state has delayed trials, changed prosecution tactics and made procedural missteps. But Tuesday’s news came as a breath of fresh air for those facing charges.

“When we got the oral decision in September we celebrated, we were so relieved and so happy,” Xavier de Janon, a lawyer representing former RICO defendant Jamie Marsicano and member of the People’s Law Collective, told *Unicorn Riot*. “When we got the written order yesterday it was like reliving those moments.”

In September defense lawyers argued that the prosecution lacked the authority to charge defendants under Georgia’s RICO, or Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations, Act asserting that the attorney general could not bring such charges without approval from the governor.

Judge Farmer agreed. In the order issued Tuesday, he dismissed the charges as procedurally invalid, ruling that the neither the statute’s language nor the state’s constitution give the attorney general authority to prosecute RICO charges without the governor’s permission.

Under Georgia law, the attorney general can only pursue RICO charges like the ones brought against Cop City opponents in matters of people or groups “dealing with or for the state.”

At the September hearing prosecuting attorney Chris Carr argued that the protesters were, in fact, “dealing with the state” as a result of their activity towards state employees and property. Farmer disagreed, writing in his order:

“The [Attorney General] would have the court define “deal with” as “engaging with” the state. It argues that any time the state is an alleged victim of a crime, the definition of “deal with” is satisfied. “Deal with” should be include [sic] when someone “deals with” an angry (or misbehaving) child. To stretch the definition of “deal with” to this length would lead to absurd results and give the AG much broader powers as those set forth in the state constitution and the limited number of statutes that give the AG express power to prosecute crimes[...].” – Judge Kevin Farmer

Accordingly, Farmer did not accept Carr’s argument that Cop City opponents were dealing with the state, and warned that such an interpretation could lead to overly zealous prosecutions in the future.

The ruling dismisses the RICO charges, but doesn’t address related arson charges that some are facing. In September lawyers argued that the same language appears in the state’s arson laws and that those charges, which appear in the same indictment, should be thrown out too.

Farmer agreed that the arson charges were likely brought in error along the same lines as the RICO charges, but didn’t issue a decision in his written order.

The state could re-file RICO charges with permission from the governor, and may appeal Farmer’s ruling.

And while he and others are celebrating the legal win, de Janon is uncertain about the future of the case given the state’s erratic moves up to this point.

“The RICO has been dismissed, we’ll see what happens next week,” de Janon said.

31 Dec - Mystery meat and maggot-infested produce: the reality of US prison food

In Eating Behind Bars, author Leslie Soble details how food is used to further punish incarcerated people in the US

MORE:

by Sam Levin (*The Guardian*)

At best you get “mystery meat”. Or “sour-smelling heaps” of macaroni. In the worst cases, it’s undercooked chicken, spoiled milk and maggot-infested produce.

In prisons and jails across the US, people are routinely fed unhealthy, tasteless or inedible meals. Many are left hungry and malnourished, with devastating long-term health consequences. The hidden crisis affecting millions of incarcerated people is the subject of *Eating Behind Bars*, a new book offering a disturbing account of how correctional institutions punish their residents through the food they provide and withhold.

The book by Leslie Soble, a Washington DC-based ethnographer and folklorist, describes roaches and rats in prison kitchens, rotten meat and guard dogs who are fed better meals than incarcerated people. It is a compelling, and at times nauseating, indictment of the criminal justice system. Soble manages the Food in Prison Project at Impact Justice, a national non-profit that advocates for reforms and supports incarcerated people; she co-wrote *Eating Behind Bars* with Impact Justice colleagues, Alex Busansky and Aishatu R Yusuf.

The book lays out the “gastronomic cruelty” and “culinary malpractice” inside prisons, where residents “subsist – barely – on carb-heavy, ultraprocessed foods”. Portions are “just enough to keep you alive”. The book is based on surveys of hundreds of formerly incarcerated people and their families, in-depth interviews, in-prison focus groups and testimony from officials and activists.

Some may see this as a niche issue or a case of liberals wanting to provide incarcerated people with gourmet meals. But the prison food crisis, Soble argues, has significant widespread implications. It's a public health crisis, with estimates suggesting each year behind bars reduces life expectancy by two years. It's a labor rights issue, as incarcerated people earn pennies per hour running the kitchens, barely enough to buy canteen snacks to supplement their meager diets. And there are environmental ramifications: US correctional facilities create an estimated 300,000 tons of food waste annually as residents reject unpalatable offerings.

The Guardian spoke to Soble about her findings – and the solutions her group and others are pursuing to transform food systems behind bars.

This conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity.

What drew you to documenting the realities of food behind bars?

I'm an ethnographer and folklorist, which means studying the simple, everyday pieces of our life and finding the bigger meaning. I grew up in a very food-centric home. Food has always fascinated me. In 2018, I saw a job posting for a criminal justice reform non-profit looking for someone to study food in prison. I had never stopped to think deeply about what it means to eat while incarcerated and have all these restrictions around the ways you interact with food. The posting called for someone to look at nutrition in prison, what's on the tray, how that impacts people's health. I was interested in how food impacts mental, emotional and behavioral health, our identity, the interactions with people around us. I really wanted to examine this question of, what is the message we're sending to and about incarcerated people through the food being served?

Can you paint a picture of the average prison meals in the US?

A typical prison diet is very high in ultra-processed foods, highly refined carbohydrates, sugar and salt, and very low in fresh fruits and vegetables, quality protein, whole grains. These meals are designed to keep people alive, not to nourish them. They don't smell, taste or look good. There are lots of hotdogs, baloney sandwiches, soggy pasta with a mysterious sauce, something that might be called "salad", but it's really just a handful of wilted iceberg lettuce. We hear about cake that's meant to be dessert, but is really designed to increase calories. There are fortified beverages that come in a powder like Kool-Aid. It's supposed to provide critical nutrients, but many told us they don't drink it, because the taste is chemical and they don't know what's in it. I've heard of people finding a rat tail, roaches or metal in their food, or getting curdled milk with chunks.

What did you learn about the ways food can be used as a form of punishment?

When a judge sentences someone to five years, they don't say you're also sentenced to lifelong diabetes and high blood pressure. People enter prison in one state of health and come out with exacerbated or new health conditions. That's an additional punishment. We've also heard about strict chow hall rules. If someone wants to share food or exchange items with someone, a guard might take away their trays, throw them out and write them up. People are sent to solitary confinement if they take a piece of fruit or bread back to their living quarters, and it's treated as contraband.

What is the emotional toll of being served these meals?

I often ask correctional leaders to close their eyes and think about food in their own lives – how you feel when you have a delicious, home-cooked meal, sitting with loved ones and there's a sense of ease. Now think about how you feel eating from a fast-food place rushed in your car, or at table fighting with someone and it's super tense, or you have food that tastes bad. You feel different emotional states in those settings. That human relationship to food doesn't change behind bars. Being served something you know is harmful to your health can eat away at you.

How do people cope?

Human beings are so creative and resilient, especially when it comes to food. Some folks who were incarcerated will tell you some of their better memories from prison are actually around food – the times they made something communally, using stuff they’ve stolen from the kitchen or garden or bought from the commissary, times they’ve cobbled together things like birthday cakes, or managed to get soup for someone who is sick, or a celebration meal for a holiday. Something that reminds them of life outside prison.

Your book says that many incarcerated people have jobs where they make mere pennies producing food they can’t even consume. How does this work?

In a number of corrections departments across the country, there are agricultural programs [using the labor of incarcerated people] that produce enormous quantities of food – fresh vegetables, dairy products, meat. That food in many cases isn’t going on their trays. It’s sold off at profit to the state. So many people have to spend hours working these jobs in plantation-like settings, whether the jobs are voluntary or mandatory. Some are actually on the grounds of former plantations. In the south, it can be really hot and humid. They don’t necessarily have access to water or sunscreen. They’re growing healthy, fresh food that could nourish them, but they could be sent to solitary for just grabbing a handful of tomatoes. Then there are people working inside kitchens, sometimes in dangerous conditions, getting up at 2am to prepare breakfast, using dangerous chemicals, they might not have protective gear, or the equipment isn’t functioning properly. Some might not be paid at all.

Activists are pushing reforms across the country. What are common threads you see in impactful organizing?

The work is most successful when it’s driven by people who have been or are incarcerated or have loved ones in prison. Return Strong, a Nevada group [formed by incarcerated people’s families], is one of the most successful, and that’s partly because they have this ability to be relentless, to not stop demanding accountability, to never shut up. They demand everyone see how important this is. A willingness to try out different messaging is also important. A lot of successful groups talk in financial terms – “return on investment”. If you give people better food, healthcare and security costs go down, and it sets people up for a more successful re-entry.

Where do you see promise in changing these systems?

Impact Justice works with the University of California and the California department of corrections and rehabilitation (CDCR) on a Harvest of the Month program. We bring local food from small, sustainable farmers – asparagus, avocados, persimmons, kiwis, strawberries, mandarin oranges – on to CDCR trays. One food service manager in a central California prison told us: “I’ve been working here 27 years and I’ve never seen a lemon inside this facility.” He made lemon chicken, and there were additional lemons people could take. Some squeezed it into soup to make it kind of like pho. Others put it on hot Cheetos, like a street snack. One person dried the peel and cut it into strips, flavoring his water for weeks. It’s so simple. Why would we prevent people from having lemons? That doesn’t make the world safer. When we said we would be bringing strawberries, a man started crying because he hadn’t seen a strawberry in 17 years.

You talk in the book about Iceland, Norway and other countries doing a better job. What are some obstacles to adopting similar reforms here?

One barrier is we simply lock up too many people in this country. We’ve got roughly 2 million people locked up at any given time, and that number is growing again. We also have very lengthy sentences. If you look at countries that do prison food more humanely, they don’t lock up huge portions of their population, and don’t lock them up for decades, giving them more resources to feed people better. Another barrier is

our attitude toward food. We're still very caught up in a standard American diet, which is not particularly healthy. This over-incarceration and under-promotion of nourishing food are a perfect storm. People often ask is the biggest barrier cost or policy? And I say cost and policy are both rooted in people's attitudes toward people who are incarcerated. If we started from a place of saying they are community members, they're parents, friends, siblings and neighbors who deserve care, then policy and funding would look different.

10 Jan - Saxapahaw Prison Books Packing Party

WHAT: Book packing

WHEN: 4:00pm, Saturday, January 10th (and every other Saturday)

WHERE: P.I.T. - 411 South 5th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

Join Saxapahaw Prison Books to get packages of books loaded up and sent out to prisoners.

15 Jan - Resurgence Youth Movement, 1964-67

WHAT: Exhibition Opening

WHEN: 7:00pm, Thursday, January 15th

WHERE: Interference Archive - 314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

The Resurgence Youth Movement (RYM), an anti-racist and anti-imperialist anarchist affinity group active in the Lower East Side between 1964 and 1967, demanded nothing short of a "World Revolution of Youth."

Co-founded by Jonathan Leake (b. NY, 1946) and Walter E. Caughey (b. TX, 1943-d. NY, 1967) at the ages of 17 and 21, respectively, the RYM comprised a small group of teen and youth activists who sought to build on their existing involvement in and exposure to the Libertarian League, the Industrial Workers of the World, and News and Letters Committees.

Active primarily in New York, with some activities in Chicago and San Francisco, RYM published a mimeographed zine, coordinated efforts among old and new left networks, and carried out a series of direct actions. Their zine *Resurgence* (twelve issues; September/October 1964–March 1967) was founded after a meeting in Detroit with Marxist theorist and activist Raya Dunayevskaya, who encouraged the group and gave them the hand-cranked mimeograph machine that later produced the journal.

The RYM called for the disintegration of the State, the complete destruction of bourgeois society, and a total surrealist-psychedelic revolution of the mind and body. "The Resurgence Youth Movement...advances the new anarchism of body, mind and soul, the psychedelic alchemies of revolution," RYM wrote in their "Guerilla Manifesto" (*Resurgence* 6, 1967). Their activities continued until August of 1967, when Walter Caughey was stabbed to death in New York in an unsolved murder that many believe was politically motivated.

This exhibition follows the 2023 publication of an anthology of selections of all twelve issues of *Resurgence* from Eberhardt Press (Portland, OR). Included in the exhibition are original and reproduced items from the Leake Family Archives (Jonathan Leake and Paul Leake), the collection of Maggie Wrigley and the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space, and Interference Archive. Leake's activities in the New York squatter punk scene are also documented.